

Wedding Rehearsal – *With the Holy Eucharist*

Before Rehearsal:

1. Wedding kneelers
2. Reserved tags on pews if used
3. Place folding chairs in front of 2 first pews for wedding party

Meet with Bride and Groom to confirm:

1. Names and order of Bride's attendants, including Honor Attendant
2. Names and order of Groom's attendants, including Honor Attendant
3. Names of ushers
4. Names of flower girl and ring bearer
5. Number of pews required on each side for family
6. Seating of Bride's relatives, including who will usher each in and out
7. Seating of Groom's relatives, including who will usher each in and out
8. Special seating arrangements (handicapped, etc.)
9. Flowers to be delivered when.
10. Who gets what flowers (guests)? Fill out information on Schematic.
11. Dresses to be delivered? If so, when?
12. Do you have programs? If so, who hands them out?
13. Will your Wedding Book be in the back Gathering Space of the church? If so, will someone be responsible for it?
14. Are you planning to have the "Church Bells" rung after the service?
15. Is your **Marriage License** in the Church office or given to the officiating Priest?

General Information:

1. Introduce self and other Wedding Guild Assistants.

Everyone sit in approximate location as at the wedding service.

Wedding Guild members will be at Church one hour prior to the service to assist and prepare.

2. Guests should feel welcome, comfortable and privileged to be a part of this special service. It is the attendants responsibility to help make this happen.

3. Persons to be seated in the roped off areas should tell the Usher where they are to be seated (i.e., 3rd row on Bride's side, 4th row on Groom's side). Honor requests.

Mother of the Bride should save space at end of the pew for seating of the father after he presents the Bride.

4. Dress quickly and remove all belongings to cars before leaving the dressing room.

Appoint someone to help with this. You should not need to return to the room to collect things after the service and can proceed directly to the reception.

Wedding Guild assistant(s) will be there to assist in any way.

5. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed in buildings.

6. A wedding is a religious service, not a production.

No flash pictures are to be taken during the service. Please alert family and friends of this.

Photographer cannot take flash pictures.

Pictures may be taken in the Church up to 30 minutes prior to the wedding service. Usually, these pictures are of the men and family members.

Pictures may be taken of the women in the dressing room, the garden area or the Church up to 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the wedding service.

Pictures may be taken following the service in the Church.

Please limit post wedding pictures to 20 – 30 minutes. You have guests waiting at the reception who will appreciate you present in a timely manner. Remember, many of the pictures of family, etc., can be taken at the reception.

7. During the service, don't lock your knees while standing. Stand as relaxed as possible. No fainting is allowed!
8. Do not chew gum – attendants, wedding party, ushers or anyone in wedding service.
9. As the attendants and family leave the church at the end of the service:
- ***Go directly to the right and enter the Parish Hall to wait for pictures after the guests have left the Church. Wait for directions from the photographer.***

Wedding Service:

1. All attendants and honored guests should arrive at least one hour before wedding service.
- Bride's attendants and flower girls dress in the women's dressing room. The women/girls should come completely ready except for slipping on dresses. That is, avoid makeup and hair styling at the church. Only touch ups should be planned at the church. Be sure that dresses are pressed and ready to wear.
 - Groom's attendants and ring bearer can dress in the chapel or an upstairs classroom.
2. Fifteen minutes prior to the start of the service, all honored guests to be seated by escorts down the center aisle (Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents, etc.) should be seated in the back of the church on the side on which they will be seated and in the order they are to be escorted down the aisle.
3. Ten minutes prior to the start of the service (depending on the number of honored guests), the honored guests will be seated in the appropriate order.
- Upon seating the mothers, escorts should **pause** before leaving the end of the pew.
- If the Groom, Honor Attendant or a Groomsman escorts a mother/grandmother, he should return to the back and lead the groomsmen along the west outside aisle to the back – or stay at the back for the procession. The other ushers return to back of church and stand on either side behind the last pew as the Bride's Attendants and the Bride process. The ushers may find a seat near the back after the service begins.
4. The **Priest** enters the Sanctuary at the time the wedding service is to begin. The **Bride and Groom Mothers stand**, signaling the congregation to stand.

5. The Groom and his Attendants gather in the Sacristy and enter with their hands at their sides. When the Groom exits the Sacristy and reaches the bottom of the stairs, the Groom's Honor Attendant starts down the Sacristy stairs. Each Attendant starts when the one in front reaches the bottom of the stairs and should keep about 4 feet between themselves and the attendant in front of him.

6. The Groom stops at the steps and his attendants keep about 2 feet between (space according to number of attendants) and all face toward the altar.

Wait for the Priest to enter the church and face the congregation, then turn left to face the last high arc in the church (standing at an angle).

Ring Bearer may:

- Enter with Groomsmen, following Groom and before the Groom's Honor Attendant, or
 - Enter with the flower girl
 - Enter alone just prior to the Bride
7. The Honor Attendants and Bridesmaids should hold their flowers by resting their elbows on their hipbone. This will keep all flowers at the same level.
8. When the person in front is about ½ way down aisle, the next Bride's Attendant starts to walk slowly (keeping about 4 pews apart).

Walk straight down aisle, make sharp turn just before steps, and proceed to spot in front of folding chairs.

Pause, count 1,2,3, and turn right to square shoulders with the high arc on opposite side of church and **smile**. Follow the progress of the rest of the procession.

Bride's Honor Attendant: Last Attendant.

Flower Girl(s): If included, enters just before the Bride.

Bride: The Bride will enter on escort's **right** (or left) arm.

9. When the Bride and her escort pass the first pew and meet the Groom at the steps, all Attendants should pivot back to face the altar and acknowledge the altar together by bowing (watch Priest).
10. The Groom joins the Bride and her escort in front of the Priest. All Attendants are slightly angled, basically facing the Priest. The Bride's Attendants square to west corner of Sanctuary on Groom's side and Groom's Attendants square to east corner of Sanctuary on Bride's side.
11. The Priest takes the flowers from the Bride and gives them to the Bride's Honor Attendant.
12. The Priest is the leader of the service. When he says, "Who presents this woman . . .," the escort responds, then turns **left**, being watchful of Bride's dress and takes his seat in the pew.
13. The Priest will give all instructions, i.e., will prompt the Bride when to give flowers to Honor Attendant, will take the Bride's hand from her escort and give it to the Groom.
14. As the service continues, remember that all Attendants are the witnesses of this marriage and assist the congregation to participate in the responses indicated in the

prayer book. Step by step instructions will be provided from the Priest throughout the service to the Bride and the Groom.

15. The **Groom's Honor Attendant** holds both **rings** and presents them to the Priest for blessing when the Priest requests them.

The Holy Eucharist

1. After the Peace, the Priest will indicate to the wedding party when it is time to be seated. **If the Priest does not give instructions, the Bride and the Groom and the Honor Attendants should turn and move to the choir pews.**
2. The Attendants should be seated in the first pews on each side in the reverse order as they are standing.
3. When it is time for communion, the priest will signal the Bride and the Groom when to return to the altar rail. The Bride and the Groom will move first to the wedding kneeler. The 2 Honor Attendants will take their places at the rail next to the Bride and the Groom.

NOTE: Everyone kneels and all who are baptized are welcome to receive communion (**quick course in how-to**). Those not wishing to receive communion should fold their arms across their chests and will receive a blessing.

4. After the wedding party has finished at the rail, the Bride and the Groom and the Honor Attendants return to the choir pews and the Attendants and others in the congregation process to the rail as directed by the Ushers.
5. As soon as the Bride and the Groom stand to return to the choir pews, one or two "Post/Pusher" usher(s) should walk to front of pews, pause and acknowledge altar, take their places to direct the congregation. Ushers should direct the guests from the pews and keep a line ready to enter the rail.
6. When everyone in the congregation has had communion, the Ushers should enter the rail last.
7. When all have received communion, including Ushers, and the Priest(s) return to the altar table, the Priest signals the return to the rail, as before, with the Bride and the Groom leading the way and the Honor Attendants following. The Bride's Attendants should bring their flowers with them.

End of Service:

1. Music starts. Priest(s) congratulate the Bride and the Groom. The Bride collects her flowers. The couple turns and takes a few steps into aisle, as practiced at the rehearsal.

The Bride's Honor Attendant: When the couple turns and pauses, straighten train if necessary. (*Tip: Simply lift the end enough to fluff some air underneath and it will fall into place. No need to attempt lengthy adjustments at this time.*)

2. Attendants prepare to exit in order.
3. Attendants meet as couples in the center and pause. Each couple processes down the aisle with approximately 2-pew space between couples.

4. Any Groomsmen who will be escorting mothers, grandmothers or other honored guests following the service should remain near the center door, ready to make a return trip down the aisle.
5. All other attendants and family members to be included in photos should exit and (repeat earlier directions):
 - ***Go directly to the right and enter the Parish Hall to wait for pictures after the guests have left the Church. Wait for directions from the photographer.***

Ushers:

1. Be at church one hour before the service. Dress at the church or come dressed.
2. We like to fill the church evenly. Unless guests request, no need to seat guests according to Bride or Groom guests. However, family members are seated on the appropriate side.
3. All guests are seated from the **outside**, starting with the rows behind the designated Reserved pews. No guests are seated from the center aisle. Center aisle seating is only for the members of the wedding party (mothers, fathers, grandmothers, etc.)
4. Family members and friends, as indicated by Bride and Groom, will be seated in the designated Reserved pews.
5. Users must hustle. Everyone seems to arrive during the fifteen minutes prior to the service.
6. When guests arrive, Ushers should not wait for them to get involved in conversations with others. Be assertive: ask to seat guests as they enter the church. Say, “Please follow me,” and lead the lady with husband or escort to follow her.
7. The wedding book will be removed if it is holding up seating the guests. It will be put out at the reception for guests who could not sign prior to the service.
8. If a guest has a camera, remind them that no pictures are to be taken during service.
9. Upon seating the mothers, be sure to pause before leaving the end of the pew.
10. At the end of the service, after escorting mothers, etc., out of the church, return and stand at the ends of pews, prompting each successive pew to leave, moving toward the back of the church, keeping people moving steadily.

After the Rehearsal:

1. Move the kneeler back to Priest Sacristy for storage.
2. Store the “Reserved” markers in the Priest Sacristy.
3. Be sure all lights are off.
4. Be sure all doors are locked when leaving the building.